REMARKS

This paper is in response to the official action of April 13, 1999, wherein claims 67-69, 72, and 73 were rejected as being obvious over Temple '028 in view of Bartky et al. Reconsideration is requested.

New claims 75-80 have been added. Our check in the amount of $186.00 to cover the filing fee for six additional claims in excess of twenty and one additional independent claim in excess of three is submitted herewith.

Support for new claim 75 is found in original claim 9, at page 6, lines 14-16, and in Fig. 1. Support for claims 76-78 is found in the last paragraph of page 4 of the specification and in claims 17 and 18 of the application. Support for claims 79 and 80 is found in original claim 9.

The indication allowability of claims 34-45 and 59-64 is gratefully acknowledged.

The obviousness rejection of claims 67-69, 72, and 73 based on Temple '828 in view of Bartky et al. is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is requested.

It is reiterated that neither of the two cited documents discloses mechanical bonds between conductive tracts on a cover sheet and electrodes on channel-facing walls, which bonds seal the cover sheet to the channels. See claims 67(c) and 72(b).

Temple '028 discloses (see Figs. 1-3) a high-density, multi-channel array in which the facing walls 16

of channels 12 include metallized electrodes 34 which extend from the edges of the tops 22 of the walls down to a location well short of the bottom surface 18 of the channels (see col 4, lines 6-10). Attachment of the closure sheet 21, however, is achieved by means of a bonding layer 21 between the sheet and the tops 22 of the channel walls 16 (see col. 3, lines 16-20).

Bartky discloses (see Fig. 9(a)) a multi-channel array which is manufactured by first laminating pre-poled layers of piezoelectric ceramic to base and tope walls 601 and 602 (see col. 9, lines 31-33). The resulting laminates are then each formed with parallel grooves to define respective upper and lower wall parts 605 and 607 (see col. 9, lines 35-38), the surfaces of which are then coated with electrodes (see col. 9, lines 41-42). Channel formation, however, is achieved by cementing the laminates together at their wall parts 605 and 607 (see col. 9, lines 44-45).

Neither Temple '028 nor Bartky suggests the feature of mechanical bonds between conductive tracks and channel electrodes which seal a closure sheet to the channels nor the various advantages derivable therefrom as detailed in the present specification.

For the foregoing reasons reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is solicited.

A "Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement" is being submitted herewith pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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